UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1998/L.19
20 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1998
New York, 6-31 July 1998
Agenda item 3 (c)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and Council resolutions 1994/33 of 28 July 1994 and 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 concerning annual reporting mandates for the operational activities segment of the Council's substantive session,

Seeking to enhance the ability of the Council to fulfil its role in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis,

Acknowledging the need for enhanced interaction between the Council and the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes,

Welcoming the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to the Council, on the invitation of their Executive Board, of a consolidated list of issues central to the improved coordination of operational activities,

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Welcoming the oral reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes during the operational activities segment of the Council on, inter alia, the Resident Coordinator System, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the United Nations Development Group,

1. Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programmes, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to conferences so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

2. Requests the Executive Boards, when considering the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis and to make appropriate proposals in line with Council resolution 1995/51;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, when drawing up his annual report for the operational activities segment requested in Council resolution 1994/33, to take account of the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as of the comments of the respective Executive Boards on the annual reports, and to focus the report on the themes to be agreed upon by the General Assembly in the next triennial policy review for future discussion by the Council's working-level meetings of the operational activities segment;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to arrange for submission by the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to the Council at its annual substantive session of a concise consolidated list of issues which are central to the improved coordination of operational activities and on which the funds and programmes seek consideration by and guidance from the Council, particularly in regard to the triennial policy review, and to include in the list recommendations whenever possible;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to arrange for the United Nations Development Group to explore ways and means to enhance the consultation with the specialized agencies and the Secretariat in drawing up the consolidated list, as outlined in paragraph 4 above;

6. Notes that consecutive and/or joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, bearing in mind their respective mandates, could provide a useful forum for board-level discussion of the issues arising from the reporting requirements mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4.